

HASC POSTURE HEARING: 16 FEB 2012

CHAIRMAN MCKEON, RANKING MEMBER SMITH, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, IT IS MY HONOR TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME TO DISCUSS NAVY'S BUDGET SUBMISSION.

THANKS TO OUR 625,000 ACTIVE AND RESERVE SAILORS AND CIVILIANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES, THE NAVY AND OUR PRIMARY JOINT PARTNER, THE MARINE CORPS, REMAINS A VITAL PART OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

I AM HONORED TO SERVE AND LEAD THE NAVY IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

THIS AFTERNOON, I WILL ADDRESS THREE POINTS:

1. NAVY'S IMPORTANCE TO OUR NATION'S SECURITY & PROSPERITY;
2. ENDURING TENETS AND PRIORITIES THAT GUIDED MY DECISIONS;
3. HOW THESE SHAPED NAVY'S BUDGET SUBMISSION.

THE NAVY'S IMPORTANCE TO U.S. SECURITY & PROSPERITY

TODAY, OUR NAVY IS THE WORLD'S PREEMINENT MARITIME FORCE. OUR "GLOBAL FLEET" OPERATES FORWARD FROM U.S. BASES AND PARTNER NATION "PLACES" AROUND THE WORLD TO DETER AGGRESSION, RESPOND TO CRISIS, AND – WHEN NEEDED – WIN OUR NATION'S WARS.

IF YOU REFER TO THE CHARTLET IN FRONT OF YOU, YOU CAN SEE THAT ON ANY GIVEN DAY WE HAVE ABOUT 50,000 SAILORS AND 145 SHIPS UNDERWAY, WITH ABOUT 100 OF THOSE SHIPS DEPLOYED OVERSEAS.

BECAUSE WE ENSURE ACCESS TO WHAT I CALL THE "MARITIME CROSSROADS," WHERE SHIPPING LANES AND OUR SECURITY INTERESTS

INTERSECT, WE INFLUENCE EVENTS ABROAD AND ADVANCE OUR INTERESTS. THESE CROSSROADS ARE INDICATED BY THE ORANGE BOW-TIES OR IF MECHANICALLY INCLINED, VALVES, ON THE CHARTLET.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE MIDDLE EAST WE HAVE 30 SHIPS AND MORE THAN 22,000 SAILORS AT SEA AND ASHORE. THEY ARE COMBATING PIRACY, SUPPORTING OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN, ASSURING OUR ALLIES, AND MAINTAINING A PRESENCE IN THE REGION TO DETER OR COUNTER DESTABILIZING ACTIVITIES. THESE FORCES RELY ON FACILITIES IN BAHRAIN, A U.S. PARTNER FOR SIX DECADES.

IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC, WE HAVE ABOUT 50 SHIPS SUPPORTED BY OUR BASE ON GUAM AND FACILITIES, OR “PLACES”, IN SINGAPORE, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, AND JAPAN.

IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, WE DEPEND ON DIEGO GARCIA WITH A FLEET TENDER STATIONED THERE AND AIRFIELD, FOR SHIP REPAIR AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT.

AROUND THE HORN OF AFRICA, WE DEPEND ON THE AIR FIELD AND PORT IN DJIBOUTI TO SUPPORT OUR FORCES CONDUCTING COUNTER TERRORISM AND COUNTER PIRACY OPERATIONS.

IN EUROPE WE RELY ON PLACES IN SPAIN, ITALY, AND GREECE TO SUSTAIN OUR FORCES FORWARD IN SUPPORT OF OUR NATO ALLIES.

AND IN OUR OWN HEMISPHERE, OUR PORT AND AIRFIELD AT GUANTANAMO BAY WILL GROW MORE IMPORTANT IN THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS AS THE PANAMA CANAL IS WIDENED.

1ST PRINCIPLES

WHEN I ASSUMED THE WATCH AS CNO, I ESTABLISHED THREE KEY PRINCIPLES FOR OUR DECISION MAKING, WHICH I CALL TENETS – CLEAR UNAMBIGUOUS DIRECTION FOR NAVY LEADERSHIP. THEY ARE: WARFIGHTING FIRST, OPERATE FORWARD, AND BE READY. THESE ARE VERY MUCH IN MY CALCULUS TO REDUCE THE RISK IN OUR ABILITY TO MEET OUR ASSIGNED MISSIONS.

WARFIGHTING FIRST MEANS THE NAVY MUST BE READY TO FIGHT AND WIN TODAY, WHILE BUILDING THE ABILITY TO WIN TOMORROW. THIS IS OUR PRIMARY MISSION AND ALL OUR EFFORTS MUST BE GROUNDED IN THIS FUNDAMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.

IRAN'S RECENT PROVOCATIVE RHETORIC HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR US TO HAVE FORWARD DEPLOYED WARFIGHTING CAPABILITY. IN OUR FY2013 BUDGET SUBMISSION, WE REDIRECTED FUNDING TOWARD WEAPONS, SYSTEMS, SENSORS AND TACTICAL TRAINING THAT CAN BE MORE RAPIDLY FIELDDED TO THE FLEET, INCLUDING IN THEIR DEMONSTRATORS AND PROTOTYPES THAT COULD QUICKLY IMPROVE OUR FORCES' CAPABILITY.

OPERATE FORWARD MEANS WE WILL PROVIDE THE NATION OFFSHORE OPTIONS TO DETER, INFLUENCE AND WIN IN AN ERA OF UNCERTAINTY.

OUR ABILITY TO OPERATE FORWARD DEPENDS ON OUR U.S. BASES AND "PLACES" OVERSEAS WHERE WE CAN REST, REPAIR, REFUEL AND RESUPPLY.

OUR FY2013 BUDGET SUBMISSION SUPPORTS SEVERAL INITIATIVES TO ESTABLISH OUR FORWARD POSTURE INCLUDING PLACING FORWARD DEPLOYED NAVAL FORCE DESTROYERS IN ROTA, SPAIN, FORWARD STATIONING LITTORAL COMBAT SHIPS IN SINGAPORE AND PATROL COASTAL SHIPS IN BAHRAIN. WE ARE ALSO COLLABORATING WITH THE MARINE CORPS AND WORKING WITH THE COMMANDANT TO DETERMINE THE SUPPORT AND LIFT NEEDED FOR MARINES TO EFFECTIVELY OPERATE FORWARD IN DARWIN, AUSTRALIA.

BE READY THAT MEANS WE WILL HARNESS THE TEAMWORK, TALENT AND IMAGINATION OF OUR DIVERSE FORCE TO BE READY TO FIGHT AND RESPONSIBLY USE OUR RESOURCES. THIS IS MORE THAN COMPLETING REQUIRED MAINTENANCE AND ENSURING PARTS AND SUPPLIES ARE AVAILABLE. “BEING READY” ALSO MEANS BEING PROFICIENT, BEING CONFIDENT, WITH OUR WEAPONS, SENSORS, COMMAND AND CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGINEERING SYSTEMS AS WELL.

HOW THESE PRINCIPLES SHAPED DEVELOPMENT OF PB 13

APPLYING THESE TENETS TO MEET THE DEFENSE STRATEGIC GUIDANCE, WE BUILT OUR 2013 BUDGET SUBMISSION WHILE FOLLOWING THREE PRIORITIES:

PRIORITY 1: WE WILL REMAIN READY TO MEET OUR CURRENT CHALLENGES, TODAY. CONSISTENT WITH THE DEFENSE STRATEGIC GUIDANCE, I WILL CONTINUE TO PRIORITIZE READINESS OVER CAPACITY AND FOCUS OUR WARFIGHTING PRESENCE ON THE ASIA PACIFIC AND MIDDLE EAST.

PRIORITY 2: WE WILL BUILD A RELEVANT AND CAPABLE FUTURE FORCE. OUR NAVY WILL EVOLVE TO REMAIN THE WORLD’S PREEMINENT MARITIME

FORCE, AND OUR SHIPBUILDING AND AIRCRAFT CONSTRUCTION INVESTMENTS WILL FORM THE FOUNDATION OF THAT FUTURE FLEET. IN DEVELOPING OUR AIRCRAFT AND SHIP PROCUREMENT PLANS, WE FOCUSED ON THREE APPROACHES:

1. SUSTAINING SERIAL PRODUCTION OF TODAY'S PROVEN PLATFORMS INCLUDING ARLIEGH BURKE DESTROYERS, VIRGINIA SUBMARINES AND F/A-18 SUPER HORNETS.
2. PROMPTLY FIELDING NEW PLATFORMS IN DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP, JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER, FORD CLASS CARRIER, P-8A POSEIDON AIRCRAFT AND THE AMERICA CLASS AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT SHIP.
3. IMPROVE THE CAPABILITY OF TODAY'S PLATFORMS THROUGH NEW WEAPONS, SENSORS AND UNMANNED VEHICLES INCLUDING FIRESOULT, FIRE-X AND THE ADVANCED MISSILE DEFENSE RADAR.

NEW WEAPONS, SENSORS AND UNMANNED SYSTEMS WILL ALLOW US TO PROJECT POWER DESPITE THREATS TO ACCESS AS DESCRIBED IN THE NEW DEFENSE STRATEGIC GUIDANCE.

ALTHOUGH THESE SYSTEMS WILL ENABLE OUR CONTINUED DOMINANCE IN THE UNDERSEA ENVIRONMENT, CYBERSPACE PRESENTS A DIFFERENT SET OF CHALLENGES. OUR FY2013 BUDGET SUBMISSION SUPPORTS OUR GOAL TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY IN CYBERSPACE AND FULLY EXPLOIT THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM.

PRIORITY 3: WE WILL ENABLE AND SUPPORT OUR SAILORS, CIVILIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES. I AM EXTREMELY PROUD OF OUR PEOPLE. WE HAVE A PROFESSIONAL AND MORAL OBLIGATION TO LEAD, TO TRAIN, TO EQUIP, AND TO MOTIVATE THEM.

OUR PERSONNEL PROGRAMS DELIVER A HIGH RETURN ON INVESTMENT IN READINESS. WE FULLY FUNDED OUR PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS OPERATIONAL STRESS, SUPPORT FAMILIES, ELIMINATE THE USE OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS LIKE SPICE, AND AGGRESSIVELY PREVENT SUICIDES AND SEXUAL ASSAULTS.

I SUPPORT THE COMPENSATION REFORMS INCLUDED IN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S FY2013 BUDGET SUBMISSION, WHICH I BELIEVE ARE APPROPRIATE CHANGES TO MANAGE THE COST OF THE ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE.

CLOSING

IN CLOSING, YOUR NAVY WILL CONTINUE TO BE CRITICAL TO OUR NATION'S SECURITY AND PROSPERITY BY ASSURING ACCESS TO THE GLOBAL COMMONS AND BEING AT THE FRONT LINE OF OUR NATION'S EFFORTS IN WAR AND PEACE. I ASSURE THE CONGRESS, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THAT WE WILL BE FOCUSED ON WARFIGHTING, WILL OPERATE FORWARD, AND WILL BE READY. WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.